

BBC Learning English
Words in the News
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Deadly storms in East Asia



Two typhoons have left many dead or missing in East Asia. In Japan at least nine people have been killed and some are missing. In China at least one child has been killed, while in Taiwan 12 people have died. Chris Hogg reports:

China moved almost a million people from its **coastal provinces** to safer areas before Typhoon Morakat hit **the mainland** on Sunday. Heavy rain **triggered landslides** and caused several hundred houses **to collapse**, but **the effects weren't as bad as might have been feared**, after **the damage it had wreaked** elsewhere.

The storm had caused the worst flooding in 50 years in Taiwan. They're still working there to free thousands of people who remain trapped, and searching for the dozens who are missing.

In Japan, there were more **casualties**, as a different typhoon caused severe problems along the western coast of the country. Again **torrential downpours** triggered landslides and flooding. One man was found drowned inside his car, a woman was found dead in a **gutter**.

Chris Hogg, BBC News, Shanghai

Vocabulary and definitions

coastal provinces	areas of a country which are situated by the sea
the mainland	the larger or main part of a country, not including the islands around it
triggered	caused something bad to start
landslides	a mass of earth suddenly moving down a hill or slope
to collapse	to fall down in pieces to the ground
the effects weren't as bad as might have been feared	although the typhoon caused some damage, it could have been worse
the damage it had wreaked	had caused something bad to happen
casualties	injured people
torrential downpours	very heavy rain
gutter	the edge of the road where rain collects and flows into drains

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/8192633.stm>

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/language/wordsinthenews/2009/08/090810_witn_typhoon.shtml